

**Remarks**

This is responsive to the Office Action mailed on January 5, 2006. Reconsideration of the instant application in view thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-9 are pending. Claims 1 and 3-9 are rejected. Claims 1 and 6 and the specification have been amended to more clearly define the invention. No new matter has been added.

**Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph**

Claims 1 and 3-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In view of the above amendments clarifying the polymer designations, Applicants respectfully request this rejection be withdrawn.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 1 and 3-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Patel (U.S. Patent No. 5,779,786). Applicants submit that Patel does not teach or disclose a composition comprising an alkaline polymer, hydration inhibitor, and addition polymer, which differ from one another.

Patel discloses a mixture of copolymers. However, as indicated by the Examiner, Patel does not disclose a composition having an alkaline polymer, hydration inhibitor, and addition polymer, which differ from one another. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 3-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 1,432,157 ("the '157 patent"). Applicants submit that the '157 patent does not teach or disclose a composition comprising an alkaline polymer, hydration inhibitor, and addition polymer, which differ from one another.

The '157 patent discloses a mixture of copolymers. However, similar to Patel, the '157 patent does not disclose a composition having an alkaline polymer, hydration inhibitor, and addition polymer, which differ from one another. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request this rejection be withdrawn.

**Conclusion**

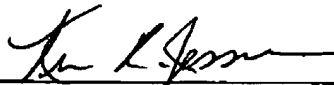
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

This Paper is believed to be timely filed and that no additional fees are due. However, if any additional fee is deemed required for consideration of this Response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 18-1850.

Respectfully submitted,

April 5, 2006

Date



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